Finely drawn

KARPOV'S WIN in the 9th game of the world championship match (see feature on previous page) was considered by many to be his finest achievement in the first 12 games of the match. Personally I prefer the eighth game; it ended in a draw after a marathon 80 moves, but it contained many brilliant subtleties:

GIUOCO PIANO OPENING KORCHNOL

| KANPUV | | |
|--------|-----------|--|
| | e4 Nf6 | |
| | Bc41? | |

Nc6

This move was a sensation - Karpov had never in his career played a Giuoco Piano (or Italian Game as it is otherwise known).

4. c3 5. d3

Nf6

So this is the idea — the quiet treatment of the Quiet Game (that's what Giuoco Piano means). We have now reached a position that can also arise by transposition from the Bishop's Opening.

5. ... 6. Nbd2 7. 0-0 8. Bb3 Ba7 Be6

This bishop drops back to c2, giving the position a character similar to that of a restrained Ruy Lopez opening.

10. ... 11. Re1 d×e4 12. dxe4 Nh5 13. Nf1 QXd1 14. RXd1 Rad8 15. Be3 16. B×a7 N×a7 Nf4

Many grandmasters would have already agreed such an equal-looking position a draw - what with one open file, queens off and the pawn structure balanced. It was from this very situation, however, that Karpov with almost magical accuracy was able to extract an advantage.

18. h4!

Korchnoi could not continue 18...R×d1 ch 19.R×d1 B×a2 because of 20.g3! Ng6 (if White's pawn was still on h3 then 20...N×h3 ch 21. Kg2 Be6 would be possible) 21.b3 Nb5 22.Ral N×c3 23.Nd5! N×d5 24.e×d5 B×b3 24. B×b3 and White's bishop is superior to Black's three pawns.

19. Ne1 20. f3 Nc8 21. Nd3 22. Bb3 Ne7

The natural 22...Rfd8 fails to 23.B×e6! B×e6 24.Nc5 R×d1 ch 25.N×d1 $B \times a2$. 26.N×b7 27.R×a2 R×d1 ch 28.Kh2 Rd2 29.Nc5 winning a pawn in the endgame. 23. Nd5 Nc6

And again if 23...Rfd8 then 24.N×e7 ch R×e7 25.Nc5! is very strong -25...R×d1 ch 26.R×d1 N×c5 allows 27.Rd8 ch Re8 28.R×e8 checkmate. It is fantastic the way Karpov is able to stop Korchnoi doubling on the d-file like this by the cunning arrangement of

24. Ba4!

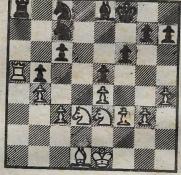
his minor pieces.

25. Bc2

Rfd8 Finally Korchnoi doubles his rooks, but not without conceding queenside pawn weaknesses. Karpov immediately sets about exploiting them."

26. a4 27. g3 28. b4 29. Ne3 30. Ra3 Ne7 Rc6 Nc8 31. a×b5 32. Kf2 33. Nb2 34. B×d1 axb5 Nb6 RXd1 Rd6 35. Be2 36. Ra5 37. Ke1 38. Ra6 39. Bd1 40. Nd3 41. Ra5 Be8 Rd8 Nc7 Ra8

KORCHNOL



KARPOV

This was Korchnoi's sealed move in the adjourned position.

42. 14 43. g×f4 44. Bf3 45. Be2 46. Ra7 Na4 Rd7 47. Kd2 48. R×d7 49. Bg4 50. f5 51. B×15 Kg7 Nf8 52. e5! 53. B×d7 N×d7 Ndb6

White's advantage persists right into an unusual four-knights endgame. But from this point on it is Korchnoi who steals the limelight by conducting a brilliant defence.

55. Nf4 56. Kd3 57. Ng4 58. Nh6 Ke7 Kd6 59. Kd4 60. Nf7 ch Ne7 Kc7 61. Nh5 c5 chl

The saving counter-stroke - Black must activate his passive knight on a4.

62. b×c5 Nc6 ch

Hardly daring to hope for 63.Kd5?? NXc3 checkmate!

N×c5

63. Ke3 64. N×f6 N×e6 65. h5 Nf8 Kb6 h6 Ke4 Ng5 Nf7 Ne6 Ne8 Nc5 ch Ke3 Na4 Kd2 72. c×b4 73. N×h6 74. Nf5 N×b4 Nc5 Nd5 75. h6 76. Kd3 77. Kd4 Ne4 ch Ng5 Kc8 Ne7 79. 80. Ng6 Nf5 **Draw Agreed**

After 80...Nf7 81.h7 Ng5 82.Ne7 ch! Kb7! 83.N×g6 N×h7 84.N×h7 White cannot force mate with two knights against a lone Black king - one of the minor injustices of the laws of chess.

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